

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, US, RQ, XM

SUBJECT: HAVANA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOLIDARITY
WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO

1. SOVIET-SPONSORED WORLD PEACE COUNCIL AND CUBAN MOVE-
MENT FOR PEACE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF PEOPLES ARE ORGANIZING
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOLIDARITY WITH INDEPENDENCE
OF PUERTO RICO IN HAVANA SEPTEMBER 5-7. PREPARATORY
MEETING MARCH 30-31 WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATIONS FROM 25
COUNTRIES, PLO, PUERTO RICO, PRGSVN, AND TWELVE INTER-
CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS. LA DELEGATIONS WERE
FROM ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CHILE (EXILES),
GUYANA, MEXICO, PANAMA, PERU AND VENEZUELA. TO OUR
KNOWLEDGE, ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT THOSE FROM COMMUNIST

STATES WERE NON-OFFICIAL GROUPS USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH WORLD PEACE COUNCIL. CONFEREES AT THAT TIME DECIDED TO SEND WORLD PEACE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO STIMULATE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN HAVANA SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, WPC MEMBERS HAVE VISITED NUMBER OF LA COUNTRIES IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. CUBA LOBBIED INTENSIVELY ON PUERTO RICO QUESTION AT 3RD MINISTERIAL MEETING OF COORDINATING BUREAU OF

NONALIGNED COUNTRIES AT HAVANA MARCH 17-20. FINAL DECLARATION CONTAINED EXTENSIVE REFERENCES TO PUERTO RICO REFLECTING CUBAN POSITION. CUBANS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE QUESTION AGAIN AT AUGUST 25-29 LIMA CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES.

3. WE DO NOT WANT TO STIMULATE THIRD COUNTRY INTEREST IN SEPTEMBER HAVANA CONFERENCE OR TO SUGGEST WE ATTACH MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS LATEST CUBAN PROPAGANDA EFFORT BY MAKING FORMAL DEMARCHES TO LA GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, WE DO ANTICIPATE THAT CUBA, AT FORTHCOMING UNGA, WILL USE FACT OF QUOTE INTERNATIONAL UNQUOTE HAVANA MEETING AS INDICATIVE OF ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CUBAN POSITION THAT PUERTO RICO IS NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY. WITH THIS IN MIND, IF THERE ARE INDICATIONS YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT MAY LEND OFFICIAL SUPPORT TO HAVANA CONFERENCE, HAS EXPRESSED OFFICIAL INTEREST IN IT, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF VISITS OF WPC REPRESENTATIVES, OR SHOULD SUBJECT ARISE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, YOU

SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS TO EXPLAIN US ATTITUDE:

A. PUERTO RICO EXERCISED RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN APPROVING 1952 CONSTITUTION (IN 1951 REFERENDUM BY 387,016 VOTES IN FAVOR TO 119,169 AGAINST) AND ACCORDING-CONFIDENTIAL

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LY WAS REMOVED FROM UN LIST OF NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY 1953 8TH UNGA. THE US IS THEREFORE NO LONGER OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PUERTO RICO IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 73 (C) OF CHARTER. 1971 26TH UNGA IMPLICITLY UPHELD THIS DECISION BY REJECTING CUBAN EFFORT TO INSCRIBE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE ON AGENDA.

B. COMMONWEALTH STATUS APPROVED IN 1952 WAS REAFFIRMED IN ISLAND-WIDE REFERENDUM IN 1967. PUERTO RICANS VOTED AS FOLLOWS ON THEIR STATUS IN RELATION TO US: FOR COMMONWEALTH 60.41 PERCENT; FOR STATEHOOD 38.98 PERCENT; FOR INDEPENDENCE .60 PERCENT. SIXTY PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE

VOTERS VOTED (707,293 OF 1,067,349 ELIGIBLE). IN AUGUST 1973 GENERAL ELECTIONS, BOYCOTTED BY PRO-INDEPENDENTISTA PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY SUPPORTED BY CUBA, INDEPENDENCE PARTY ONLY RECEIVED 4 PERCENT OF VOTE. THEREFORE, PRO-INDEPENDENCE FORCES IN PUERTO RICO REPRESENT MINUSCULE MINORITY OF PUERTO RICANS AS INDICATED IN VARIOUS POPULAR VOTES.

C. CUBAN SPONSORSHIP OF PRO-INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE CLEARLY IS PROPAGANDA DEVICE WHICH APPEARS DESIGNED (1)

TO BOLSTER MARXIST-LENINIST PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY WHICH RECENTLY OBTAINED NECESSARY NUMBER OF SIGNATURES TO RECEIVE PLACE ON BALLOT FOR ELECTIONS SLATED FOR 1976 AND (2) TO PROVIDE NEW TALKING POINT FOR CUBA AT UPCOMING UNGA. CUBAN SPONSORSHIP, MOREOVER, REPRESENTS GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL US AND COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AFFAIRS.

D. USG IS CONFIDENT LA GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO THIS CUBAN PROPAGANDA EFFORT BY PERMITTING OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE OR TO PERMIT OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ON ANY PRIVATE DELEGATION OR DELEGATIONS WHICH MIGHT ATTEND FROM THEIR COUNTRY. WE WOULD HOPE FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS WILL DISCOURAGE PRIVATE, NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS AS WELL. KISSINGER

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